

THE FUGELMAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

THE BLACK HAT BRIGADE---THE IRON BRIGADE

1861-1865

VOLUME XXVI

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY, 2016

FU-GEL-MAN: A well-drilled soldier placed in front of a military company as a model or guide for others.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PASS IN REVIEW

From the quill of Lt. Colonel Pete Seielstad



Thanks to those who attended the 2nd Wisconsin Vol. Inf. Association meeting on the 30th of January 2016. Meeting at the Community Congregational Museum in Fox Lake is quite a treat as it is the recruiting site of the Citizens Guard who became Company A of the 2nd Wisconsin.

The minutes of the meeting will be published soon but a brief review should be offered:

It is always good to see the many familiar faces in the dead of winter that we normally see around the campfire during our campaign season. Bureaucracy has its place and our annual meeting is the place for it. We were able to accomplish much in the way of business. Administration reports and company reports made up a good deal of the meeting. Over all I believe our strength is holding its own in membership numbers. At the same time the exceptional quality of our members is strength one cannot measure.

We seem to be wealthy enough to continue our scholarship program. It will change somewhat but for the better.

Elections were held and we continue to receive quality leadership. Scott Frank will keep to his books as treasurer. Wally Hlaban has become our

new major of artillery replacing Brandt Doty. Doug Rasmussen stepped down as major of infantry, this lead to the nominations of Robert Schwandt and Ryan Holbrook (*two exceptional candidates*) for infantry major. A ballot was cast with Robert Schwandt taking the position as major of infantry. Gentlemen, “To whom much is given, much is expected”.

Co. A hosted a wonderful meal at an excellent value and no one went hungry.

One of the many joys of my position as Lt. Colonel is the privilege to observe our members over the year and select someone who exhibits the ideals and principles of the 2nd Wisconsin. This year’s award went to Doug Rasmussen. He has been active as infantry major always concerned for the men’s’ safety. Along with his support for the 2nd, Doug organizes Co. E’s annual charity march. This year’s march landed them right in the middle of a snowstorm and dropping temperatures. But his party of blue-clad adventurers accomplished what they set out to do. Well done, my friend, well done.

Events this year will be National at Perryville; Association at Wade House and Company K will be supported by the 2nd at their event held at Galena.

With all that the 2nd Wisconsin Association has accomplished in the past, I expect we will accomplish more.

Your obedient servant,

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES OF THE COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

On February 12th, people will celebrate the 207th birthday of Abraham Lincoln. It seems like it was only yesterday we celebrated the bi- centennial of his birth! And we just commemorated the 150th anniversary of his death at the hands of John Wilkes Booth. The century and a half since Lincoln was assassinated have seen thousands of books published about the man, his career, his politics and his marriage. Over all these years one thing seems clear enough. Lincoln was an enigma. That fact has generated more written words than anyone but Jesus of Nazareth in the lexicon of history!

Lincoln had many acquaintances but very few close friends. He was a very private man. He didn't keep a diary or write many personal letters (at least none that are extant today). Over the century and a half since his tragic death, however, historians have pieced together a pretty fair assessment of the man and his times. And his times were extraordinary!

A historian, the editor believes it was James McPherson, once wrote that if Lincoln had never been born it would have been necessary for Americans to invent him. Lincoln was THE quintessential American personality. Americans know how to work hard and Lincoln knew hard work. He cleared land, plowed fields, split rails, took a flatboat to New Orleans, operated a store in New Salem, studied the law, taught himself to be a surveyor, served in a militia unit during the Blackhawk war, and practiced politics with a fervor only Americans can understand. Lincoln developed amazingly literate writing skills and made himself into a phenomenol political philosopher as well.

Another American trait we admire is a person who sets goals and works, however long, at accomplishing those goals. Lincoln worked continually to be a very good attorney and politician. He always said that he wanted to accomplish something that would result in his being remembered long after he died. Lincoln did just that. I always wonder if he understood what an impact he made on the nation! The Gettysburg Address and his Second Inaugural Speech rank as the greatest speeches in the English language.

And then there was his reputation for honesty. His friends took to referring to him as “Honest Abe” long before he would be elected President. It seems today we don’t expect the same level of honesty that we once did from politicians, but no man anywhere wants to be seen as being outright dishonest.

Another characteristic of Abraham Lincoln was a determination to hold to his resolutions and promises and see them through to fruition. Lincoln himself saw this as the gem of his character. As a key example one can look to his determination to follow through of the Emancipation Proclamation. After issuing the preliminary proclamation many wondered whether he would sign the final decree. (An unconstitutional executive order?) Lincoln had faced intense pressure not to sign that final proclamation from citizens, editors, and military leaders. In response Lincoln famously stated that while he was a slower walker once he made a decision he never took a step back. History marks his signing of the Emancipation Proclamation today as a signature achievement in our nation’s advancement of the concept of freedom.

Lincoln was always embarrassed by his lack of a formal education. Despite that lack of formal education Lincoln, by dint of his extraordinary ambition and determination became a well read man! Part of his success was due to an innate intelligence, but also to that hard work that was an earmark of his character.

Lincoln was also a family man. Although he was often away on the legal circuit, he was a good father (even an indulgent father) and clearly loved his children. He was also deeply in love with his wife. The marriage wasn’t always a smooth one, but he was forever faithful and it is clear that Mary and Abe were united in their walk through life.

The compassion of the man made Lincoln beloved by many. There are so many stories that highlight his concern for his fellow man and animals. We know the story of how, as a child, Lincoln chided his schoolmates for placing hot coals on the backs of turtles. Everyone also knows that Lincoln did everything he could to pardon soldiers convicted and ordered to be executed by the military. He did this in the face of heated opposition from commanders in the field. Lincoln loved and admired the men in the ranks of the armies. The death and destruction weighed heavily on Lincoln throughout the war. It aged him! But the soldiers loved Lincoln because of his compassion for the men in the ranks. And Lincoln treated blacks,

women and children with the same compassion at a time when such conduct wasn't widely practiced.

Lincoln's character was truly what most Americans view as their strength and aspiration. Hard work, overcoming a background that would not seem conducive to success, determination and resolve to accomplish our goals, common sense, ambition, a strong family unit, honesty, and a love of country are still characteristics that most Americans admire. It is a model we want our contemporary politicians to emulate. That is why it would have been necessary to create such a leader in our history if he had not otherwise existed. Lincoln embodied all that Americans see in themselves and expect in our leaders.

Therefore, as we wish Abraham Lincoln happy 207th birthday it seems that we should honor his character, as well as his accomplishments.

REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES



AN INVITATION FROM THE MEMBERS OF COMPANY E





COME ALL!

**THE OFFICERS, LADIES AND SOLDIERS OF
COMPANY E,
SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
INVITE ALL TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL SWEETHEART'S DINNER & DANCE
AT SWAN CLUB/LEGENDS
(DIRECTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE)
IN DE PERE, WISCONSIN
ON SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH 2016.**

Cocktails will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by a dinner of chicken and tenderloin tips, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Coleslaw, Rolls, Dessert Bars and Kneecaps at 6:00 p.m. The Twin Hill String Band will play from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The cost will be \$18.00 per person, payable by check to "Company E, 2nd Wisconsin," and MUST be received by Monday, April 4th 2016.

**Send payment to David Sielski,
2316 Serenade Lane
Green Bay, WI 54301**

**Questions should be addressed to David Sielski at either
(920) 660-2449 or dsielski@greenbay.gannett.com**

**PLEASE COME AND CELEBRATE
THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SEASON!**

DIRECTIONS TO SWAN CLUB/LEGENDS
875 HERITAGE ROAD
DE PERE, WISCONSIN 54115

From Highway 172 East/West—take the Riverside (Hwy 57) Exit.

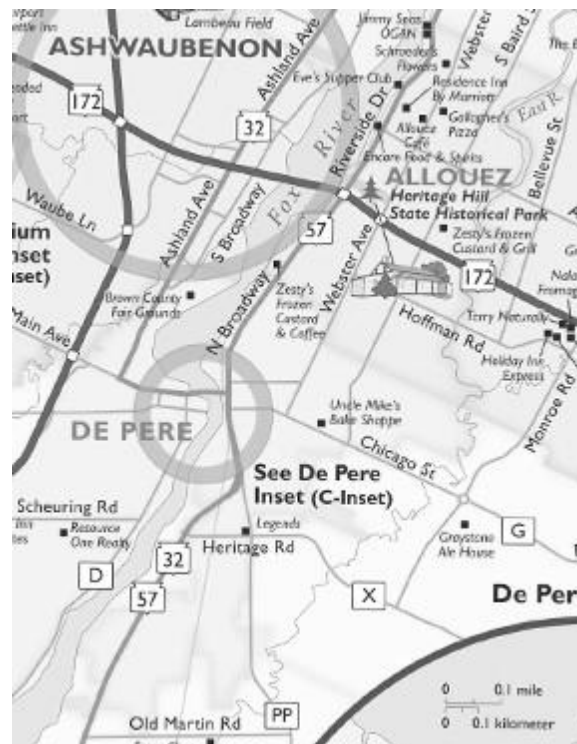
Turn left onto Riverside Drive—you will be going south towards De Pere.

In De Pere, Riverside Drive becomes North Broadway.

Go straight through the round-about in De Pere, staying on North Broadway, which remains Hwy 57.

Outside De Pere the road will split—stay to the left, taking County Rd PP.

Legends/Swan Club will be on your right at the corner of County PP and Heritage Road.



SWAN CLUBSWAN CLUB

COME ALL!

THE OFFICERS, LADIES AND SOLDIERS OF COMPANY E, SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, INVITE ALL TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL SWEETHEART'S DINNER & DANCE AT SWAN

CLUB/LEGENDS (DIRECTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE) IN DE PERE, WISCONSIN ON
SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH 2016.

Cocktails will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by a dinner of chicken and tenderloin tips, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Coleslaw, Rolls, Dessert Bars and Kneecaps at 6:00 p.m. The Twin Hill String Band will play from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The cost will be \$18.00 per person, payable by check to “Company E, 2nd Wisconsin,” and MUST be received by Monday, April 4th 2016. Send payment to David Sielski, 2316 Serenade Lane Green Bay, WI 54301 Questions should be addressed to David Sielski at either (920) 660-2449 or dsielski@greenbay.gannett.com Please Come and Celebrate the Beginning of a New Season!

Directions to Swan Club/Legends 875 Heritage Road De Pere, Wisconsin 54115 From Highway 172 East/West—take the Riverside (Hwy 57) Exit. Turn left onto Riverside Drive—you will be going south towards De Pere. In De Pere, Riverside Drive becomes North Broadway. Go straight through the round-about in De Pere, staying on North Broadway, which remains Hwy 57. Outside De Pere the road will split—stay to the left, taking County Rd PP. Legends/Swan Club will be on your right at the corner of County PP and Heritage Road.

MEMBER OF COMPANY K RECEIVES ALTERNATE APPOINTMENT TO THE SERVICE ACADEMIES

Brookfield, WI – Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner announced today that 19 students from Wisconsin’s Fifth Congressional District have received nominations to the U.S. service academies.

“The Fifth District students selected this year as nominees to the various United States service academies are truly remarkable and will do their families and communities proud in both their academic and professional endeavors,” said Sensenbrenner. “Our country needs strong leaders to protect and serve, innovate and inspire – I have no doubt these fine young men and women will do just that, and continue to be a credit to our state and this nation.”

Nominees for the United States service academies were chosen from an impressive group of qualified applicants residing throughout Wisconsin's Fifth Congressional District. The Congressman's Academy Selection Committee put forth its recommendations for nomination after reviewing each individual candidate and conducting in-person interviews.

Of the 19 students, three have been named principal nominees. If the principal nominee meets the academic, physical, and medical standards set by the academy, they are assured an offer of appointment to the academy. If a principal nominee does not qualify or chooses not to attend, the alternates compete for the vacancy. Alternates are also part of a pool of applicants from which the academies will select the incoming class.

Principal Nominees:

Alexis Fredericks of Brookfield has been named a principal nominee to attend the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY and an alternate nominee to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. Alexis, daughter of John Fredericks and Amelia Frankum, is a senior at Waukesha South High School.

Celeste Fohey of Pewaukee has been named a principal nominee to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Celeste, daughter of Anthony and Hilda Fohey, is a senior at Brookfield East High School.

Dominic Haight of Oconomowoc has been named a principal nominee to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO and an alternate nominee to the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY. Dominic, son of Daniel and Ranea Haight, is a senior at Catholic Memorial High School.

Competing Alternate Nominees from Dodge County:

Jazmyn Trudeau of Oconomowoc has been named an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. Jazmyn, daughter of Leo and Petronella Trudeau, is a senior at Oconomowoc High School.

Competing Alternate Nominees from Jefferson County:

Brianna Halvorsen of Fort Atkinson has been named an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Brianna, daughter of Daniel Halvorsen and Nicole Linksens, is a senior at Fort Atkinson High School.

Wilder Wichman of Watertown has been named an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. Wilder, son of Joseph and Shelby Wichman, is a senior at Johnson Creek High School.

Competing Alternate Nominees from Milwaukee County:

Alexander Idonije of Greenfield has been named an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY. Alexander, son of Kunle and Elaine Idonije, is a senior at Wayland Academy.

Christian Van Dellen of Wauwatosa has been named an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Christian, son of James and Penny Van Dellen, is a senior at Milwaukee Lutheran High School.

Competing Alternate Nominees from Washington County:

Andrew Barnhart of Jackson has been named an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Andrew, son of Robert and Sandra Barnhart, is a senior at Living Word Lutheran High School.

Stephanie Hopkins of Colgate has been named an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Stephanie, daughter of Ron and Teresa Hopkins, is a senior at Hamilton High School.

Competing Alternate Nominees from Waukesha County:

Rachel Baker of Brookfield has been named an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY. Rachel, daughter of Brian Baker, is a senior at Brookfield Central High School.

Andrew Burzinski of Menomonee Falls has been named an alternate

nominee to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Andrew, son of Joseph and Karen Burzinski, is a senior at Menomonee Falls High School.

Riley DeMeulenaere of Brookfield has been named an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY, the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Riley, son of Christopher and Ann DeMeulenaere, is a senior at Marquette University High School.

Jacob Dickman of Oconomowoc has been named as an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY, the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Jacob, son of Peter and Lisa Dickman, is in his senior year of homeschooling.

Jacob Fritz of Menomonee Falls has been named an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Jacob, son of Christopher and Johanna Fritz, is a senior at Germantown High School.

Jake Hall of Nashotah has been named as an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Jake, son of Matthew and Denise Hall, is a senior at Lake Country Lutheran High School.

Cassandra Jehly of Brookfield has been named as an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Cassandra, daughter of Jordan and Naomi Jehly, is a senior at Brookfield Central High School.

Joshua Redmann of Waukesha has been named as an alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY, the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Joshua, son of Matthew and Virginia Redmann, is a senior at Waukesha West High School.

Timothy “Tanner” Germann of Menomonee Falls has been named an

alternate nominee to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. Tanner, son of Tim and Joy Germann, attended the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) from 2013-2014 before he attended a full-time mission trip to Germany for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is seeking readmission to complete schooling at USAFA.

Congressman Sensenbrenner is currently accepting nomination applications from Wisconsin's Fifth Congressional District for those who would like to enter any United States service academy in the summer of 2017. Inquiries concerning this process can be made to the Congressman's district office in Brookfield at (262) 784-1111, or online at Sensenbrenner.house.gov.

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

Below you will find the reports filed for the annual meeting by the Second Wisconsin commander, the Fugelman and the medical unit.

REPORT TO THE SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 30, 2016

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETE SEIELSTAD

Providence, good judgment & management in 2015, allowed the Second Wisconsin companies to present to the public - demonstrations, school programs, historical interpretations and re-enactments; thus confirming its dedication through service. The Second Wisconsin is very active in education. Each company hosts an annual school day presentation at some level. Additionally, the membership of the Association offer scholarships to its members with confidence that such a program should continue. With these two simple programs the Second Wisconsin Association will touch the lives of countless people.

If it seems that I repeat myself, it is because we achieve our goals year after year. Above all of our accomplishments, we have come to recognize the two simple elements of our hobby. Recognize the sacrifices of the soldiers in the American Civil War and provide teachers a tool to educate beyond the classroom and the textbook.

The Second Wisconsin has seen its share of challenges. Preparing for and attending events, has always been a priority. The challenge comes when the 'Real Life' as it is called, interferes with our passion to demonstrate to others what we know about the American Civil War. Bringing the history textbook to life on the field at a school presentation or at a re-enactment is challenging and gratifying. On the other hand, we must constantly be aware of the toll that it takes on our families and our daily lives. Do not forget that your responsibility to your family comes before setting out for an event. The home fires must never go out. On this note: I extend my heart-felt gratitude to our families. Without their support, our support in the 2nd Wisconsin Association is meaningless.

Each year, I am pleased by the relationship that the 2nd Wisconsin has with its own members, members of other units, command structures of events (local & national) and to the host of the events we attend. Sadly, familiar events have closed. Boscobel's 'Muskets and Memories' and Old World Wisconsin's 'Gone for a Soldier', have ended. However, working together in collaboration with others we can achieve our goal and present the life of the American Civil War soldier to students and spectators alike.

Gentlemen of the Second Wisconsin, take pride in the fact that you are a connection to the past and surprisingly a very strong link of a bygone era. Life can be understood by looking back, but it must be lived by looking forward. And that is what we do. Looking back, grasping the meaning of our nation's sacrifices and then move forward with the understanding of our collective American experience.

On the field of the 150th Gettysburg, I was ordered to counter-march to the rear. The result was perplexing and embracing. Since those forgettable days

I have come to the belief that I will never march to the rear again and throw my command into confusion. Forward is our call. "Forward men! Forward for God's sake, and drive those fellows out of the woods."

With respect and admiration of men of the 2nd Wisconsin Association,

Your obedient servant,

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

**2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT
SECOND WISCONSIN
MEDICAL FIELD HOSPITAL**

JANUARY 30, 2016



Command Structure:

President Stan Graiewski

Vice President-Secretary-James Dumke

Field Rank:

Captain-Surgeon-Stan Graiewski

Lieutenant-Assistant Surgeon-James Dumke

Members:

Two

Activity-Annual Highlights:

Trinborn Farms

Hartland

Company K School Days

Muskets and Memories

Return to Camp Randall

Veteran's Day at State Capitol

Additional Associations:

Society of Civil War Surgeons

15th Medical Field Hospital

REPORT FROM THE FUGELMAN EDITOR

It is the honor of the editor of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association newsletter, *The Fugelman*, to submit the following report:

In 2015 the newsletter was published every month, twelve issues. There were two additional “special Issues” also published during the year. During the current editorship the newsletter has not failed to appear monthly. The editor has continued to receive positive comments and positive suggestions from our members. For that the editor is indeed appreciative.

It is important to note that *The Fugelman* is a collaborative effort. Many men have contributed to the publication during 2015. It is with some trepidation that the editor tries to list those who have contributed to the success of the newsletter for fear of overlooking someone who has taken the time and effort to make the publication a communal effort. The editor can't express deeply enough the appreciation to those who have participated in the creation of our newsletter. The following have provided material to the newsletter:

- **Anthony Vranicar**

- **John Dudkiewicz**
- **Gary Van Kawenbergh**
- **Charles Bagneski**
- **Steve Peterson**
- **Dave Seilski**
- **Stan Grianewski**
- **Lyle Laufenberg**

A special thank you goes to Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad for his monthly efforts on behalf of *The Fugelman*. Not only has our commander submitted his monthly “Pass In Review” column, but has submitted many other items for inclusion in the newsletter. It is time consuming work and his dedication to the task is greatly appreciated.

As the editor of the newsletter I am honored by the trust and opportunity to serve the Association in this capacity. I am gratified by your trust and support and look forward to the continued publication of *The Fugelman*.

Respectfully submitted,

Pvt. Jim Dumke

Editor, The Fugelman

PHOTOS FROM THE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING



The *Fugelman* extends its sincere gratitude to Lyle Laufenberg for the following photographs from the Association annual meeting. The first photo is a group picture of the members of ole Battery B. It was a sad note that the battery has become inactive and may cease to exist as a member of our Association. Battery B and its members have been an integral part of the editor’s 15 years as a member of Company K and his grandson was a member of the battery. It will be hard to fall in on the field without that unit in support of the Second Wisconsin troops in the future! The editor is sure that he speaks for all our members when he thanks the Battery for their years of service to the Association. Well done ladies and gentlemen!!

The next two photos are of Company B's newest member, Joshua Studinger taking the mustering in oath at our annual meeting.

And the last photo is the presentation of the certificate of merit to Major Doug Rasmussen. Please see the Lieutenant Colonel's "Pass In Review" for his discussion of the certificate for the Major.





FROM THE CAMPS OF THE COMPANIES OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN

INFANTRY



COMPANY B

Below please see the photograph submitted by John Dudkiewicz from a Company B event in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. It is interesting to see the company flag juxtaposed with the original flag on display at the LaCrosse County Historical Society. Also I have simply added the dispatch from John below the photo. Many thanks to John Dudkiewicz for sending this along.

Attached is a photo of several Co B members visiting the La Crosse County Historical Society January 8, 2016, where the original La Crosse Light Guard Flag is housed. From left to right are Jared Alexander, Bob Taunt, Pete Seielstad, John Dudkiewicz and Scott Heiser, along with the replica made in 1996 by Troy Buddenhagen and John and Judy Dudkiewicz.

On the front, the flag reads “Presented by the Ladies of La Crosse, July 4th 1860, To, The LA CROSSE LIGHT GUARD.” On the obverse side is an 1860 state seal



COMPANY K

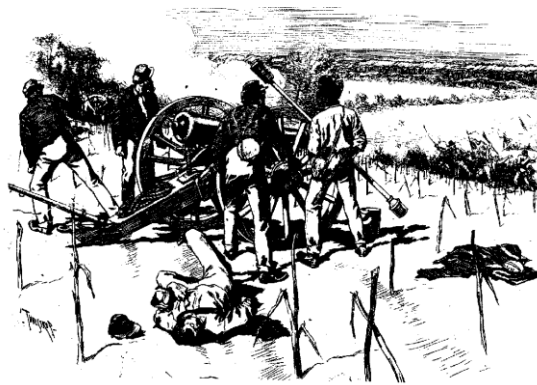
FIRST SPRING DRILL FOR COMPANY K

The first sure sign that spring is here is that first spring drill for the companies of the Association. Company K will hold its first drill on February 20th, 2016, at the Waterloo High School. The drill will commence at 9:00 a.m. and last until noon.

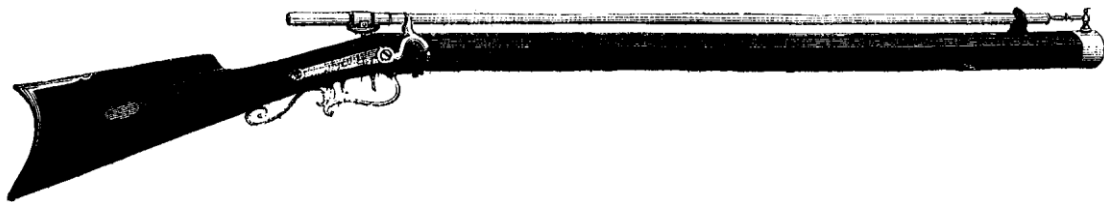
The men attending the drill should be in uniform. The frock coat or sack coat, trousers, cartridge box, waist belt with bayonet and cap pouch, and rifle. Please wear soft soled shoes to protect the gym floor where the drill will take place. Make sure to bring your canteen full of water as well.

New members and potential recruits: If you do not have all the uniform & gear listed above, let us know. Uniform pieces and gear will be loaned to you for the drill, and for events, as needed. Pre-drill breakfast: Those interested in some comradeship before the drills are invited to gather about 8 am at Hartwig's Waterloo Diner, 111 N. Monroe Street.

ARTILLERY



SKIRMISHERS



CIVIL WAR MILESTONES

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1, 1861

Texas secedes

Feb. 1, 1861

Gen. Sherman begins Carolina Campaign

Feb. 2, 1803	Gen. Albert S. Johnston, CSA, born
Feb. 3, 1807	Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, CSA, born
Feb. 3, 1864	Meridian Campaign begins
Feb. 3, 1865	The Hampton Roads Peace Conference
Feb. 6, 1833	Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, CSA, born
Feb. 6, 1862	Victory for Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in Tennessee, capturing Fort Henry, and ten days later Fort Donelson. Grant earns the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant.
Feb. 8, 1820	Gen. William T. Sherman, USA, born
Feb. 8, 1862	Battle of Roanoke Island
Feb. 9, 1861	The Confederate States of America is formed with Jefferson Davis, a West Point graduate and former U.S. Army officer, as president.
Feb. 11, 1861	Both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis begin their journeys to their respective capitals. Davis begins his journey leaving Montgomery on the steamboat <i>Natchez</i>. Lincoln will board a train in Springfield on a rainy, chilly morning. From a rear platform of his rail car he will deliver his famous "Farewell Address".

Feb. 12, 1809

President Abraham Lincoln born

Feb. 13, 1862

Battle of Fort Donelson

Feb. 14, 1824

Gen. Winfield S. Hancock, USA, born

Feb. 17, 1865

Columbia surrenders

Feb. 20, 1862

President Lincoln is struck with grief as his beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, dies from fever, probably caused by polluted drinking water in the White House.

THE JURY ACQUITTED HIM

One of the most noted murder cases in which Lincoln defended the accused was tried in August, 1859. The victim, Crafton, was a student in his own law office, the defendant, "Peachy" Harrison, was a grandson of Rev. Peter Cartwright; both were connected with the best families in the county; they were brothers-in-law, and had always been friends.

Senator John M. Palmer and General John A. McClelland were on the side of the prosecution. Among those who represented the defendant were Lincoln and Senator Shelby M. Cullom. The two young men had engaged in a political quarrel, and Crafton was stabbed to death by Harrison. The tragic pathos of a case which involved the deepest affections of almost an entire community reached its climax in the appearance in court of the venerable Peter Cartwright. Lincoln had beaten him for Congress in 1846.

Eccentric and aggressive as he was, he was honored far and wide; and when he arose to take the witness stand, his white hair crowned with this cruel sorrow, the most indifferent spectator felt that his examination would be unbearable.

It fell to Lincoln to question Cartwright. With the rarest gentleness he

began to put his questions.

"How long have you known the prisoner?"

Cartwright's head dropped on his breast for a moment; then straightening himself, he passed his hand across his eyes and answered in a deep, quavering voice:

"I have known him since a babe, he laughed and cried on my knee."

The examination ended by Lincoln drawing from the witness the story of how Crafton had said to him, just before his death: "I am dying; I will soon part with all I love on earth, and I want you to say to my slayer that I forgive him. I want to leave this earth with a forgiveness of all who have in any way injured me."

This examination made a profound impression on the jury. Lincoln closed his argument by picturing the scene anew, appealing to the jury to practice the same forgiving spirit that the murdered man had shown on his death-bed. It was undoubtedly to his handling of the grandfather's evidence that Harrison's acquittal was due.

Below is the first portion of the serialization of the book "Fifteen Months In Dixie". This is an interesting perspective of time spent in a Southern prison by a Union soldier. It provides a window into the experiences of prisoners of war during the late rebellion. The editor hopes you enjoy the next few months as the story unfolds and provides a different view of the experience of the war by a unique segment of those who served.

FIFTEEN MONTHS IN DIXIE —OR— MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN REBEL PRISONS.

A STORY OF THE HARDSHIPS, PRIVATIONS AND SUFFERINGS OF
THE "BOYS IN BLUE" DURING THE LATE
WAR OF THE REBELLION.

—BY—

W. W. DAY,
A PRIVATE OF 60. D.
10TH REGIMENT
WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

OWATONNA, MINN.

THE PEOPLE'S PRESS PRINT.

1889.

**To my Comrades
who, like myself, were so
unfortunate as to have suffered the
horrors of a living death in the Prison Pens of the
South, and who, through all their hardships, privations, and
sufferings, remained loyal to our FLAG, and to my beloved Wife,
who suffered untold tortures of mind begotten by anxiety
on account of the uncertainty of my fate, for
fifteen long, weary, months,—this
work is dedicated in**

F. C. & L.

by

THE AUTHOR.

COPYRIGHT, 1889,

BY

W. W. DAY.

PREFACE.

I have sometimes been in doubt whether a preface was necessary to this work; but have decided to write one, for the reason that in a preface the author is permitted to give the reader a “peep behind the scenes,” as he is not permitted to do in the body of the book. Since the commencement of the publication of this story, in a serial form, a few very good people have been so kind as to tell me, that it is “too late in the day” to write upon the subject of Rebel Prisons. My answer is: it is never too late to tell the story of what patriotic men suffered in the defence of Constitutional liberty, and of the Union of States, which union was cemented by the blood of our Revolutionary sires. It is never too late to tell the story of,—

“Man’s unhumanity to man.”

It is never too late to tell the truth, although the truth may be sharper than a two-edged sword. It is never too late to inspire our young men to love, and venerate, and defend, the Flag of their Country; to tell them how their fathers suffered in support of a PRINCIPLE. No, it is not too late to tell this story, and I have no apologies to offer any man, living or dead, for telling it. But, while I have no apologies to offer, I deem an explanation in order.

Since I commenced writing this Story I have felt the want of a liberal education as I never felt it before. For, to tell the exact truth, I never enjoyed the advantages of any school of higher grade than the common district school of thirty years ago. Therefore, kind reader,—you who have enjoyed the advantages of better schools, and a more liberal education,—when you find a mistake in this book, one which can not be laid at the door of the printer, kindly, and for “Sweet Charity’s Sake,” overlook it; for I assure you I would be thus kind to you under similar circumstances.

W. W. DAY.

Lemond, Minnesota, September, 1889.

FIFTEEN MONTHS IN DIXIE, OR MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN REBEL PRISONS.

BY W. W. DAY.

INTRODUCTION.

On the 12th day of April, 1861, in Charleston Harbor, a shot was fired whose echo rang round the world. The detonation of that cannon, fired at Fort Sumter, reverberated from the pine-clad hills and rock-bound coast of Maine across the continent to the placid waters of the Pacific, thrilling the hearts of the freemen of the north and causing the blood, inherited from Revolutionary sires, to course through their veins with maddening speed. That cannon was fired by armed rebellion at freedom of person, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the Union of States. That echo roused those freemen to a resolution to do and to die, if need be, for the maintenance of the Union, and the supremacy of law.

The outbreak of the rebellion found the writer, then a little past majority, on a farm near a little village in Wisconsin. I was just married, had put in my spring crop and when the first call was made for troops, was not situated so that I could leave home, but on the 10th of October following I enlisted in Co. D. 10th Wis. Inf. Vols.

As this is to be a history of prison life, it is not my purpose to write a history of my regiment but a short sketch is proper in order to give the reader a fair understanding of my capture.

The 10th left Camp Holton, near Milwaukee, about the middle of Nov. 1861. We went by railway via Chicago, Indianapolis and Evansville to Louisville, Ky., thence to Shepherdsville, thence to Elizabethtown, where we were assigned to Sill's Brigade of Mitchell's Division. Wintered at Bacon Creek and on the 11th of Feb. 1862, marched with Buell's army to the capture of Bowling Green. Buell's army and part of Grant's army arrived almost simultaneously at Nashville, Tenn. Grant with his forces proceeded to Pittsburg Landing, Buell to Murfreesboro. After Buell with the greater part of his army had marched to Grant's support, Mitchell's Division marched on Huntsville, Ala., capturing that place together with about 500 prisoners, 12 engines and a large amount of rolling stock, the property of the Memphis & Charleston R. R.

The 10th guarded the M. & C. R. R. from Huntsville to Stevenson, the junction of the M. & C. and the Nashville & Chattanooga R. R. during the summer of '62.

Early in September we commenced 2 that famous retreat from the Tennessee to the Ohio, and to show the reader how famous it was to those who participated in it, I will say we averaged twenty-four miles per day from Stevenson, Ala., to Louisville, Ky. On the 8th of October, supported Simonson's battery at the Battle of Perryville, losing 146, killed and wounded out of 375 men. Our colors showing the marks of forty-nine rebel

bullets, in fact they were torn into shreds. Dec. 31st, '62 and Jan. 1st and 2nd, '63, in the Battle of Stone's River, or Murfreesboro.

The army of the Cumberland, then under command of Gen. Rosecrans, was divided into four army corps. The 14th, under Gen. Thomas, was in the center. The 20th, under Gen. A. McD. McCook, on the right. The 21st, under Gen. Crittenden, on the left and the Reserve Corps, under Gen. Gordon Granger, in supporting distance in the rear.

We remained at Murfreesboro until June 23rd, '63, when the whole army advanced against Bragg, who was entrenched at Tullahoma, drove him out of his entrenchments, across the mountains and Tennessee River into Chattanooga and vicinity. Here commenced a campaign begun in victory and enthusiasm, and ending at Chickamauga in disaster and gloom, but not in absolute defeat.

THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA.

Rosecrans showed fine strategic ability in maneuvering Bragg out of Tennessee without a general engagement, but he made a serious and almost fatal mistake after he had crossed the Tennessee River with his own army. He should have entrenched at Chattanooga and kept his army well together. Instead of doing so, he scattered his forces in a mountainous country. Crittenden's Corps followed the north bank of the Tennessee to a point above Chattanooga, there crossed the river flanking Chattanooga on the east and cutting the railroad south, thus compelling the evacuation of that place.

McCook crossed two ranges of mountains to Trenton, while Thomas with his corps still remained at Bridgeport, on the Tennessee, and Granger was leisurely marching down from Nashville.

In the reorganization of the Army of the Cumberland in Oct. '62, our Brigade was called 1st Brig. of 1st Div., 14th Corps. The Brigade was commanded by Col. Scribner of the 38th Indiana. The Division was commanded through the Perryville and Murfreesboro campaigns by Gen. Rousseau, but through the Chickamauga campaign by Gen. Absalom Baird, now Inspector General of the Army.

I shall not attempt to give an historical or official description of the Battle of Chickamauga, but a description as seen from the standpoint of a private soldier.

On the 18th of September our Division was bivouacked at Maclamore's Cove, a few miles from Lee & Gordon's Mills. Heavy skirmishing had been going on all day at Lee & Gordon's Mills and Rossville between Crittenden and McCook's forces and those of the enemy. About 4 P. M., the "Assembly" sounded and we "fell in" and commenced our march for the battlefield. At dark my Regt. was thrown out as flankers. We marched until 10 o'clock along the banks of a small creek while on the opposite side of the creek a similar line of the enemy marched parallel with us. We reached Crawfish Springs about 10 P. M., here we took the road again and continued our march until sunrise on the morning of the 19th when we halted and prepared breakfast. Before we had finished our breakfast we heard a terrible roar and crash of musketry to our front, which was east. This was the opening of the battle of Chickamauga. Immediately afterward an Aide came dashing up to Lieut. Col. Ely, commanding 10th Wis. We were ordered to fall in and load at will. Then the order was given "forward, double quick, march," and forward we went through brush, over rocks and fallen trees, keeping our alignment almost as perfect as though we were marching in review. ³Very soon we began to hear the sharp "fizz and ping" of bullets, a sound already familiar to our ears for we were veterans of two years service, and then we began to take the Johnnies in "out of the wet." Forward, and

still forward, we rushed all the time firing at the enemy who was falling back. After advancing nearly a mile in this manner we found the enemy, en masse, in the edge of a corn field. Our Division halted, the skirmishers fell back into line and the business of the day commenced in deadly earnest. We were ordered to lie down and load and fire at will. Reader, I wish I had the ability to describe what followed. Not more than twenty-five rods in front of us was a dense mass of rebs who were pouring in a shower of bullets that fairly made the ground boil. To the rear of my regiment was a section of Loomis' 1st Mich. Battery which was firing double shotted canister over our heads. How we did hug the ground, bullets from the front like a swarm of bees, canister from the rear screeching and yelling like lost spirits in deepest sheol. But this could not last long, mortal man could not stand such a shower of lead while he had willing legs to carry him out of such a place.

The rebels soon found a gap at the right of my Regt. and began to pour in past our right flank. I was lying on the ground loading and firing fast as possible when I saw the rebels charging past our right, with their arms at a trail, looking up I discovered that there was not a man to the right of me in the Regt. I did not wait for orders but struck out for the rear in a squad of one. I could not see a man of my regiment so I concluded to help support the battery, accordingly I rushed up nearly in front of one of the guns just as they gave the Johnnies twenty pounds of canister. That surprised me. I found I was in the wrong place, twenty pounds of canister fired through me was liable to lay me up, so I filed left and came in front of the other gun just as the men were ready to fire. They called out to me to hurry as they wanted to fire, facing the gun and leaning over to the right I called to them to fire away and they did fire away with a vengeance. After this things seem mixed up in my mind. I remember getting to the rear of that gun, of hearing the bullets whistling, of seeing the woods full of rebs, of thinking I shall get hit yet, of trying to find a good place to hide and finally of stumbling and falling, striking my breast on my canteen, and then oblivion.

How long I remained unconscious I never knew, probably not long, but when I came to my understanding the firing had ceased in my immediate vicinity except now and then a scattering shot. I started again for the rear and had not gone more than a quarter of a mile before I found Gen. Baird urging a lot of stragglers to rally and protect a flag which he was holding. Here I found Capt. W. A. Collins and several other men of my Company. When he saw me he asked me if I was hurt. I told him "no, not much, I had a couple of cannons fired in my face and fell on my canteen which had knocked the breath out of me but that I would be all right in a little while." He then told me I had better go to the rear to the hospital. To this I objected, telling him that I had rather stay with the "boys."

We then marched to the rear and halted in a corn field. The stragglers from the regiment began to come in and the brigade was soon together again, but we did no more fighting that day. But just before night we were marched to

the front and formed in line of battle. About 8 o'clock in the evening Johnson's Division attempted to relieve another division in our front, Wood's, I think it was, when the latter division poured a galling fire into the former, supposing they were rebels. Some of the balls came through the ranks of the 10th, whereupon Company K opened fire without orders and a sad mistake it proved for it revealed our position and a rebel battery opened on us with shells. To say that they made it lively for us is to say but part of the truth. The woods were fairly ablaze 4 with bursting shells. The way they hissed and shrieked and howled and crashed was trying to the nerves of a timid man.

After the firing had ceased we were marched a short distance to the rear and bivouacked for the night. I laid down by a fire but "tired nature's sweet restorer" did not visit me that night. I had received a terrible shock during the day. We had been whipped most unmercifully. The 1st Division of the 14th Corps had turned its back on the enemy for the first time, that day; and, too, there was to-morrow coming, and what would it bring? Do coming events cast their shadows before? Perhaps they do, at any rate the thoughts of all these things passing through my mind made me pass a sleepless night.

Sunday morning, September 20th, came. The same sun that shone dimly through the hazy atmosphere which surrounded the battlefield of Chickamauga, and called those tired soldiers to the terrible duties of another day of battle, shone brightly upon our dear ones at home, calling them to prepare for a day of rest and devotion, and while they were wending their way to church to offer up a prayer, perhaps, in our behalf, their way enlivened by the sweet sounds of the Sabbath bells, we were marching to the front to meet a victorious and determined foe, our steps enlivened by the thundering boom of the murderous cannon, the sharp rattle of musketry and the din and roar of battle, together with the shrieks and groans of our wounded and dying comrades. What a scene for a Sabbath day? But I am moralizing, I must on with my story.

Our division formed in line of battle on a ridge, with Scribner's Brigade in the center, Starkweather's on the right and King's on the left. Soon the rebels came up the ascent at the charge step. We wait until they are in short range then we rise from behind our slight entrenchments and pour such a well directed volley into their ranks that they stagger for a moment, but for a moment only, and on they come again returning our fire, then the batteries open on them and from their steel throats belch forth iron hail and bursting shells, while we pour in our deadly fire of musketry. They halt! THEY BREAK! THEY RUN! Those heroes of Longstreet's, they have met their match in the hardy veterans of the west. Three times that day did we send back the rebel foe. In the meantime McCook and Crittenden had not fared so well. Bragg had been reinforced by Longstreet, Joe Johnson and Buckner, so that he had a much larger force than did Rosecrans.

Shortly after noon Bragg threw such an overwhelming force upon those two corps that they were swept from the field and driven toward Chattanooga, carrying Rosecrans and staff with them.

Here it was that Thomas, with the 14th Corps, reinforced by Granger, earned the title of “The Rock of Chickamauga.” Holding fast to the base of Missionary Ridge he interposed those two corps between the corps of McCook and Crittenden and the enemy, giving them time to escape up the valley toward Chattanooga.

But to return to my division. Three times that day did we repel the charge of the enemy, but the fourth time they came in such numbers and with such impetuosity that they fairly lifted us out of our line. When we broke for the rear I started out with Capt. Collins, but he was in light marching order, while I was encumbered with knapsack, gun and accoutrements, and he soon left me behind.

When I left the line I fired my gun at the enemy, and as I retreated I loaded it again, on the run, all but the cap. When Capt. Collins left me I began to look for some safe place and seeing a twenty-four pounder battery, with a Union flag, I started toward it. They were firing canister at the time as I supposed, at the enemy, but they fell around me so thickly that they fairly made the sand boil. I began to think it was a rebel battery with a 5 Union flag as a decoy, so I filed right until I got out of range.

Soon after getting out of range of the battery I came across a dead rebel and noticing a canteen by his side, I stooped, picked it up and shook it and found that it was partly filled with water. This was a Godsend for I had been without water all day. The canteen was covered with blood, but, oh, how sweet and refreshing that water tasted. Here I threw away my knapsack to facilitate my flight. I soon came to a wounded rebel who begged of me to give him a drink of water. I complied with his request and again started out for Chattanooga. I had gone but a short distance before I saw a soldier beckoning to me, supposing by the uniform that he was a member of the 2nd Ohio. I approached within a short distance of him, when the following colloquy took place:

Reb,—“He’ah yo Yank, give me yo’ah gun.”

Yank,—“Not by a thundering sight, the first thing I learned after I enlisted was to keep my gun myself.”

Reb,—“Give me yo’ah gun, I say.”

Yank,—“Don’t you belong to the 2nd Ohio?”

Reb,—“No, I belong to the 4th Mississippi. Give me yo’ah gun.”

At the same time pointing his gun point blank at my breast.

Yank,—“The devil you do.” At the same time handing him my gun for, you will remember, I had loaded my gun but had not capped it.

I think I hear some of my readers say “you was vulgar.” No, I was surprised and indignant and I submit that I expressed my feelings in as concise language as possible. Consider the situation, I was in the woods, it was nearly dark, I supposed I had found a friend but there was a good Enfield rifle pointing at me, not ten feet away, in that gun was an ounce ball, behind that ball was sufficient powder to blow it a mile, on the gun was a water-proof cap, warranted to explode every time, and behind the whole was a Johnny who understood the combination to a nicety. The fact was, he had the drop on me, I handed him my gun and he threw it into a clump of bushes.

While he was disposing of my case another Union soldier crossed his guard beat, for he was one of Longstreet’s pickets. He called to him to halt but the soldier paying no attention to him, he brought his gun to an aim and again called, “halt or I’ll shoot yo.” “Don’t shoot the man for God’s sake, he is in your lines,” said I, and while Johnny was paying his addresses to the other soldier, I gave a jump and ran like a frightened deer. Around the clump of brush I sped, thinking, “now for Chattanooga.” “Hello, Bill! Where you going?” “Oh, I had got started for Chattanooga, but I guess I will go with you,” and I ran plump into a squad of men of my company and regiment under guard.

Men, styling themselves statesmen, have stood up in their places in the halls of Congress and called prisoners of war “Coffee Coolers” and “Blackberry Pickers.” I give it up. I cannot express my opinion, adequately, of men who will so sneer at and belittle brave men who have fought through two days of terrible battle, and only yielded themselves prisoners of war because they were surrounded and overpowered, as did those men at Chickamauga.

The Battle of Chickamauga was ended and that Creek proved to be what its Indian name implies, a “river of death.” The losses on the Union side were over 17,000, and on the Confederate side over 22,000.

I said in the introduction that the Chickamauga campaign did not end in absolute defeat. And, although we were most unmercifully whipped, I still maintain that assertion, Gen. Grant to the contrary, notwithstanding. Rosecrans saved Chattanooga and that was the bone of contention, the prime object of the campaign. But it was a case similar to that of an Arkansas doctor, who when asked how his patients, at a house where he was called the night before, were getting on replied: “Wall, the child is 6 dead and the-ah mother is dead, but I’ll be dogoned if I don’t believe I’ll pull the old man through all right.”

